

OUTDOOR RECREATION ECONOMIC ECOSYSTEM TASK FORCE

DRAFT MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, December 8, 2005

10:00 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Utah State Capitol Complex, West Building

Room W135

MEMBERS/ASSOCIATE MEMBERS PRESENT

| | |
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| ANDERSON, Nan | Utah Tourism Industry Coalition |
| BURR, Steve | Institute for Outdoor Recreation and Tourism (IORT) at Utah State University |
| COLLETT, Craig | Daggett County Commissioner |
| CUTLER, Riley | Wasatch Touring - Owner/Manager |
| DEAVER, Mike | Co-Chair , DBED – Division of Tourism |
| HANSEN, Mike | Manager, State and Local Planning - GOPB |
| HERBERT, Gary R. | Co-Chair ; Lieutenant Governor, State of Utah |
| KORENBLAT, Ashley | Western Spirit Cycling |
| MCKEE, Michael J. | Uintah County Commission |
| METCALF, Peter | Black Diamond |
| OKERLUND, Ralph | Sevier County Commission |
| RASMUSSEN, Roody | Petzl America |
| STEVENS, Lynn H. | Public Lands Policy Coordination Office, Coordinator |
| STOWELL, Dennis | Iron County Commission |
| TULLIUS, Mary | DNR, Director, Division of Parks and Recreation |
| WILSON, Jenny | Salt Lake County Council Member |

MEMBERS EXCUSED

| | |
|--------------------|---|
| DURTSCHI, Steve | Utah Back Country Pilots Association |
| SCHAPPERT, Kim | Moab Trails Alliance |
| STYLER, Michael R. | Department of Natural Resources, Director |
| WANG, Steve | Quinstar Management Company, Inc. |

GUESTS/ PRESENTERS

| | |
|----------------|--|
| FAUSETT, Chris | SITLA (School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration) |
| KITTO, Denece | Representing Gayle McKeachnie; (Assistant to Mr. McKeachnie) |
| LUCAS, Larry | US Forest Service |
| MACKEY, Craig | Outdoor Industry Association (OIA) |
| PETERS, Matt | AGRC (Automated Geographic Reference Center) |

STAFF

| | |
|----------------|--|
| BOHN, Laura | Project Manager, GOPB (Governor's Office of Planning and Budget) |
| NEILSON, Nancy | GOPB – Administrative Assistant |

I. Welcome and Introductions – Mike Deaver

Mike Deaver called the meeting to order and invited the new members; Nan Anderson, Steve Burr, Craig Collett, Steve Dirtschi, Kim Schappert, Steve Wang, and Jenny Wilson to introduce themselves and to say a few words. The guests also introduced themselves.

II. Public Input

Rita Lund said the Millcreek Township includes four community councils which are: Canyon Rim Citizens Association; Mt. Olympus Community Council; East Millcreek Community Council and Millcreek Community Council. She then introduced Aimee McConkie who is the Festival Chair for 'Millcreek Township's Venture Outdoors Festival 2006.' Aimee said that the purpose of the Festival is threefold:

1. Educate Residents About Outdoor Recreation Opportunities
 2. Build Community Unity
 3. Encourage Economic Development
- (For additional information please refer to handout.)*

She asked for help with marketing the Festival and stated they need help with funding. Ashley Korenblat said the purpose of the task force is different but that a list of those who might be of help will be provided. Roody Rasmussen mentioned an upcoming "Get Outdoors, Stay Fit!" media campaign that also encourages outdoor recreation.

III. Approval of Minutes for Thursday, June 30, 2005

Action Taken:

Ralph Okerlund made the motion to approve the minutes and Dennis Stowell seconded the motion. The motion carried.

IV. Report of Scoping Meetings in Grand County and Uintah County

Appreciation was expressed to those who organized and visited the two counties for scoping meetings. It was felt that the meetings were very successful. All of the land managers came to table and were asked to express their concerns at the meeting.

1. Legal/Legislative Issues

a. Grand County

i. Jones Act

McDougald v. OARS Canyonlands, a case regarding injuries to boatmen operating recreational trips on Utah rivers. In the past, companies have been covered by workers compensation insurance. If the Federal District Court in Fresno, California rules that the Jones Act applies to Utah rivers, river outfitters will be forced to purchase additional insurance to cover such claims. The cost of this insurance is prohibitive and a cause for concern for Utah's Whitewater Industry.

Action Taken:

Because of urgency to act on this suit, Ashley Korenblat made the motion to write a letter to Lieutenant Governor Gary R. Herbert from the Task Force who in turn will write a letter to Attorney General Mark Shurtleff to notify his office. Jenny Wilson seconded the motion and the motion carried.

ii. Search and Rescue Cards

The state of Colorado sells Search and Rescue cards to outdoor enthusiasts for emergency rescues. It was suggested that Utah consider a similar program. The program provides net positive cash flow that could be used to fund the states other recreation priorities, such as emergency training.

Action Taken:

A motion was made by Ashley Korenblat that a subcommittee be established (possibly Laura Bohn, Ashley Korenblat, Lynn Stevens, Mike Hansen, Jenny Wilson and Craig Mackey), and that this subcommittee meet with UAC (Utah Association of Counties) to draft legislation and present it to the Governor (through UAC). Lynn Stevens seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

Action Taken:

A second motion was made by Riley Cutler to give the Task Force Subcommittee full support for the decisions regarding the rescue cards. Lynn Stevens seconded the motion and the motion received unanimous support by the members.

b. Uintah County

i. Utah Field House of Natural History State Park and Museum

Funding for the Repository at the Museum has been postponed for a number of years and again this year because of hurricane Katrina and the war Iraq according to Mary Tullius. There are artifacts at the old building owned by the County that need to be relocated. The hope is that the Task Force can help expedite the process of receiving the funds.

Action Taken:

Commissioner Michael McKee made the motion that a letter for Governor Huntsman to sign requesting that the National Park Service expedite the process for funding for the Repository. The Governor would send the letter to Senator Bennett asking him to take action on behalf of the project. Nan Anderson seconded the motion and the motion carried with one person (Peter Metcalf) abstaining.

2. Land Issues

a. Federal Land Issues

i. Uintah County – Red Fleet State Park

Curt Sinclear, Park Manager, would like to preserve the quality of the view shed to the north of the park. The land is currently under BLM ownership and its future is uncertain.

b. Private Land Issues

i. Uintah County – Stienaker State Park

This park is used extensively by boaters, water-skiers and fisherman. The park currently surrounds a 360 acre parcel of private land. A land trade or purchase to take ownership of this parcel would assure that it remain undeveloped and open to recreation.

Lynn Stevens (PLPCO) Public Lands Policy Coordination Office, Coordinator, Michael McKee of the Uintah County Commission, and Mary Tullius, Director of the Division of Parks and Recreation will meet to discuss issues regarding Red Fleet State Park and Steinaker State Park and will report back to the Task Force.

c. SITLA and State Lands

i. Grand County – The Colorado River Corridor

Many of the issues with regard to the Colorado River Corridor are being addressed in the proposed land trade between SITLA and the BLM. However, the Governor's

support would be helpful in assuring the passage of the bill currently before congress.

Kevin Carter from SITLA will know the status of the project. Draft a new letter with reference to the old one (Roody to provide copy) to expedite the process. Ashley will help draft the letter with Craig Mackey, and Laura Bohn.

ii. Grand County - The Sovereign Trail

Lands surrounding the Sovereign Trail have been identified in the Grand County Master Trail plan as a place where a stacked loop single-track trail system could be developed. Such a trail system is needed in order for Grand County to compete with trail systems developed in places like Fruita, Durango, and Sun Valley, all of whom are attracting visitors away from Moab. Planning for such a trail system is complicated by SITLA lands in the area.

d. Private Land Issues

i. Preservation of Petroglyphs

Commissioner Michael McKee mentioned the petroglyphs located north of Vernal.

Action Taken:

Work with landowner, GOPB, UOL, and TPL to preserve the Petroglyphs north of Vernal (which are some of the best in the world). This will be discussed at the next meeting.

3. Marketing Opportunities

a. Grand County – National Parks

The parks in Grand County have experienced little growth in visitation since 2001 and would benefit from mention in the state's marketing efforts.

i. Canyonlands National Park

User days are available for both outfitters and the public in Canyonlands.

ii. Arches National Park

While there are ongoing discussions regarding parking and transportation within the park, there are significant opportunities to increase visitation in the park's shoulder seasons.

b. Uintah County

i. Dinosaur Land National Monument

Dinosaur Land is a unique recreation opportunity and Uintah County could benefit from increased marketing.

ii. Winter Recreation and Non-motorized Recreation

Uintah County offers numerous winter recreation opportunities that could increase tourism in the winter months if marketed correctly. Non-motorized recreation opportunities in the High Uintahs could also use increased marketing.

4. Infrastructure Required

a. Grand County – 128 Bike Path

The county is in line to receive a variety of grants through UDOT and others to complete a bike path system. One of the highlights of this system is a bike path along Scenic Highway 128. While some of the funding has been secured, additional funds will be needed to complete, what can only be considered as one of the most beautiful bike paths in the country through the Colorado River Canyon.

b. Uintah County – Seep Ridge Road

Currently unpaved, this road provides a direct route from Vernal to Interstate 70. If paved, this road could be part of the scenic by-way stretching from Mexico to Canada. It has the possibility to increase tourism to Uintah County.

Note: This discussion was tabled.

V. Moving Forward with Recreation Gems Sites Identification

Laura Bohn prepared a packet with the results of the online survey. This was done on a County basis. State Parks did a great job identifying their gems. (See packet.)

The Task Force will send a letter to each County encouraging them to continue to develop their list of Recreation Gems.

VI. Lunch break for 20 minutes

VII. Rural Economic Clusters – Nan Anderson

Nan Anderson asked members of the Task Force to refer to page three of the June 30, 2005 minutes where the subject of Outdoor Recreation Clusters/Rural Economic Clusters is addressed. The goal is to get all interested parties at the table to address the Recreation Cluster Initiative.

VIII. Outdoor Retailer Winter Market – Saturday, January 28-February 2, 2006

IX. Schedule Next Meeting:

TBA

X. Adjourn: 2:20

Action Items:

- Send letters to the Counties encouraging them to continue to work on the recreation sites
- Marketing – bring issues to Tourism office – CVB's
- Colorado River Corridor
 - Contact Kevin Carter of SITLA for status
 - Roody Rasmussen to provide copy of previous letter
 - Ashley Korenblat to help draft letter with Craig Mackey, and Laura Bohn
- Next meeting agenda items:
 - Study ways to preserve and protect world class petroglyphs north of Vernal.
 - Report from Mary, Lynn, and Michael McKee regarding parks
- Follow up with Lieutenant Governor notifying Attorney General's office regarding Jones Act
 - Ashley to write letter to be sent.
- Search and Rescue Card legislation
 - Mike Hansen to write legislation with assistance from Jenny Wilson, Lynn Stevens, Ashley Korenblat, (Craig Mackey), to work with UAC to draft legislation and present it to Governor Huntsman
- Michael McKee to draft letter for Governor Huntsman who in turn would send a letter to Senator Bennett regarding the Repository.
- Report to the Governor to include progress in Uintah and Grand Counties.

- **Nan Anderson – Recreation Cluster Initiative – meeting with all interested parties.**
- **Lynn Stevens**
 - **draft letter for Governor Huntsman’s signature specific to oil and gas in regards to recreation areas like the Green River Corridor on BLM lands, etc. (possibly policy making language)**
 - **Email the letter to the Task Force**
- **Laura Bohn –**
 - **Forward/email Colorado research to Mike Hansen**
 - **Draft letterhead and logo for Task Force**

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